

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 /082 W
-----019053 121219Z /53

R 120955Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3493
ERDA HDQTRS WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, TGEN, USIRJC, IR
SUBJ: CALL ON DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, AEOI

REF: (A) STATE 7751, (B) STATE 152483

1. ON JULY 11, ACCOMPANIED BY SCIENCE ATTACHE, I MET WITH DR. ETEMAD, PRESIDENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN. ETEMAD STATED THAT AEOI IS NOW COORDINATING WITH MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCE AFFAIRS TO SELECT 5 TO 6 PERSON GOI DELEGATION FOR AUGUST 8-12 MEETINGS OF JOINT U.S.-IRAN ENERGY COMMITTEE. ABOUT AGENDA PROPOSED IN REFTEL (A), ETEMAD SAID HE HAD "NO PROBLEMS" WITH IT, AND THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR 3-4 DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

2. CONCERNING BILATERAL NUCLEAR TALKS, ETEMAD'S VIEW WAS THAT FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS REMAINED TO BE DEALT WITH:

A. NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE (HE SAID GOI IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM U.S. G.,

PARTICULARLY ON NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM AND THAT AEOI IS LOOKING FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING CLOSELY IN THIS EFFORT).

B. HOW LEGISLATION PREPARED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD INFLUENCE FUTURE U.S.-IRAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

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C. HOW GOI SHOULD HANDLE "TREATY" WITH U.S., ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO AUTONOMOUS AGENCY STATUS OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, ON GRANTING EXPORT LICENSES.

3. RE SOLAR ENERGY, REFTEL (B), ETEMAD CONCURRED THAT SOLAR ENERGY DOES HAVE STRONG POTENTIAL FOR IRAN, AND MERITS CONSIDERATION DURING JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. ETEMAD COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE

WORK BEING DONE AT THE SANDIA LAB AND SPOKE OF HOPED-FOR FRUITFUL COLLABORATION WITH ERDA.

4. ETEMAD ALSO GAVE A BRIEF OUTLINE OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROGRAM. HE ANTICIPATES THAT THE COSTS OF PLANTS AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED THERE FROM WILL CONTINUE TO RISE. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE TWO PLANTS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AS BUSHEHR WERE AEOI ESTIMATES THEY WILL HAVE TO INVEST APPROXIMATELY AN EXTRA \$300 MILLION (COMPARED TO SIMILAR PLANTS IN WEST GERMANY) TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COSTS ON EARTHQUAKE-PROOF DESIGN, PHYSICAL SECURITY (ANTI-SABOTAGE) AND AVOIDANCE OF POLLUTION OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

5. ETEMAD EXPRESSED SOME PERSONAL CONCERN OVER TOO-RAPID A PACE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN IRAN. ETEMAD SAID THE SHAH IS PUSHING AEOI STAFF VERY HARD (2,500 PERSONNEL OF WHICH 900 ARE PROFESSIONALS) TO ATTAIN GOAL OF 22 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO BE COMPLETED WITH NEXT 15 YEARS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN06134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770247-0366
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770765/aaaacejt.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 38f3e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 7751, 77 STATE 152483
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1884311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, AEOI
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, TGEN, IR, US, USIRJC, (SULLIVAN, WILLIAM H), (ETEMAD, AKBAR),
To: STATE ERDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/38f3e66c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009